

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct several formal errors therein.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Odoni et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,722,548 (Odoni). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Odoni in view of Achten, U.S. Patent No. 6,279,517 (Achten).

It is noted that Odoni is not a prior art against this application. The present application claims priority of German application DE 10318554.2-15 of April 24, 2003. Odoni has a U.S. filing date of May 8, 2003 and, thus, is not a prior art against the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that a certified translation of the German application DE 10318554.2-15, which is being submitted herewith in accordance with M.P.E.P. §201.15, overcomes Odoni as a reference.

The submission of a certified translation for overcoming Odoni as a reference does not constitute an acknowledgment that Odoni anticipates the present invention, as defined by claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 and/or makes obvious the invention defined by Claim 3, in view of Achten. In effect, applicants believe that the present invention, as defined by these claims, is patentable over Odoni. The certified translation of the priority German application is being submitted in order to expedite the prosecution of this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal

discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

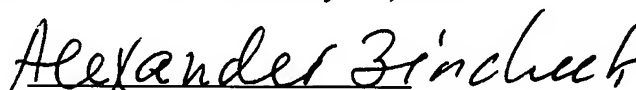
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander Zinchuk". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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Dated: February 15, 2005

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 15, 2005.

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Alexander Zinchuk